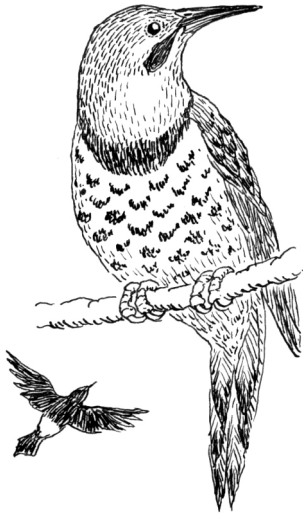


## NORTHERN FLICKER

*Colaptes auratus*



The northern flicker is the one woodpecker in the Sacramento region that can be found feeding on the ground. Larger than a robin, it also has a longer and heavier bill. It is brownish with a striking black bib and dark spots on the breast. Males have red sideburns. When flying, the flickers in this area show orange-red in their wing and tail feathers. A good identifying mark is the big white spot on the rump that flashes in flight. Flickers live in wooded areas and orchards. They feed on acorns, nuts and insects, in trees as well as on the ground. Long tongues coated with a sticky substance can reach ants down in their nests. Piercing calls are heard when visitors from the north join the few birds that remain here all year. They hammer out nesting holes in dead trees or stumps with their chisel-like bills.

---

Information excerpted from *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region: A Field Guide to Plants, Birds, Mammals, Insects, Fish, Reptiles and Amphibians*, Page 120. Co-edited by Jo Smith and Peter J. Hayes. Copyright © 2004, American River Natural History Association.

Order *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* online: <http://www.arnha.org> or by phone: The Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 916 489-4918